

From father to son to grandson: legacy lives on



TOM SHATEL

Dad was in the kitchen, making pancakes. Grandma was on the phone.

Her grandson was in the paper. This was Sunday, just before the levee broke and the gushers flowed in the Benning house.

It started with the call from grandma Dee. There was big news. Grandson Caleb was in The World-Herald as part of the annual Super Six, the area's top six seniors and college prospects in high school football.

Damon Benning, Caleb's proud dad, told his mother he had a digital OWH subscription and would look it up online. Not good enough, his mom said.

"You need to go get a paper," she said. "You need to have something to keep."

Damon went out and got some copies. When he came



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Ex-Husker Damon Benning finds himself in some of the same situations with son Caleb, a two-way standout at Omaha Westside, as he had with his dad. And he tries to offer the same fatherly wisdom he got.

Please see **SHATEL**, Page C2

BIG RED BRUNCH

Osborne, A.D. share early optimism for program

BRENDAN PREISMAN
World-Herald staff writer

When Tom Osborne talks, people listen.

Especially when it's about the program he helped guide to three national championships and more than 250 wins.

At The World-Herald's/93.7 The Ticket Big Red Brunch on Thursday, fans gathered to hear the legendary Nebraska coach speak about his charity, college football realignment and Husker memories. And naturally, talk turned to new coach Matt Rhule.

"Matt is a very hard worker, we know that," Osborne said. "And he's a great communicator and I think he's trying to set a culture where they're very physical, very tough."

"I like what he's done, so hopefully they'll have a good year."

With a week until the season kicks off against Minnesota, Osborne knows Rhule is ready to go. That doesn't mean either one is free of nerves.

"I'm sure Matt's somewhat confident but also a little edgy at this point," Osborne said. "I guess

Please see **NU FOOTBALL**, Page C3

Last look at West shows familiar foes at the finish



SAM MCKEOWN

LINCOLN — The horses ride out one last time into the setting sun and certain defeat in Indianapolis.

The Big Ten West appears to be in its last year. It

has not been a successful run for the division, which is 0-9 in Big Ten title games.

The Big 12 North, by contrast, was 4-11 during its existence. The ACC Coastal — the side opposite Clemson and Florida State — is 5-12.

The last Big Ten West title is for the right to go to Indianapolis and be a double-digit underdog to Ohio State, Michigan or Penn State before the league expands to 18 teams and ditches the divisional format for a more balanced, College Football Playoff-friendly approach starting in 2024.

"I think, at this point, divisions are going to go away," Athletic Director Trev Alberts said on his monthly radio show.

A trophy will go out of use. The teams of the West — Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska,

Please see **MCKEOWN**, Page C2

T-birds, Vikes is showcase for plenty of D-I talent



STU POSPISIL

Five of Nebraska's seven in-state scholarship commits in the 2024 and 2025 classes will play Friday night in the Omaha North-Bellevue West game.

Comprehend that.

Five Husker pledges under the lights and in the heat at Bellevue West's Faيمان Field.

Danny Kaelin, Isaiah McMorris and Dae'vonn Hall for West. Donovan Jones and Tyson Terry, the only one of the quintet who's a junior, for North.

Triplets vs. Twins.

Please see **POSPISIL**, Page C4



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Nebraska's junior class, including Lindsay Krause, will be key to the Huskers' 2023 campaign. Nebraska's first big test comes with a match at Memorial Stadium and doesn't let up much the rest of the season.

HUSKERS OFFICIALLY GET BACK TO WORK, GOALS WITHIN REACH

BRENT C. WAGNER
Lincoln Journal Star

LINCOLN — A busy off-season, ballyhooed recruiting class, position battles and an historic match that could break all-time attendance records.

Now — finally — the season begins for the fifth-ranked Huskers, who open Friday

against Utah State.

The chase is on so to speak, with regard to the top Big Ten teams and a national title.

The Huskers have played in the championship match three times in six seasons. However, there has been a knock on NU's recent record: Wisconsin.

Nebraska has lost 10 straight spanning six seasons to the

Badgers. There first chance to end the skid is Oct. 21 in Lincoln.

To do that, Nebraska expects to lean on — and should get a lot from — its freshmen class. But this is also the time for Nebraska's juniors to take hold of the team, especially in November and December.

That class is hitters Lindsay

Krause, Ally Batenhorst and Merritt Beason, libero Lexi Rodriguez and setter Kennedy Orr.

By that time, we should know a lot about the Huskers. Until then, here are some other notes and storylines to watch.

Please see **NU VOLLEYBALL**, Page C4

BRIEFLY

BASEBALL

Chasers fall

Omaha couldn’t overcome a big early deficit and St. Paul held on for a 10-7 win Thursday night at Werner Park.

The Saints (71-51) bolted to an 8-0 in the third inning, highlighted by a three-run homer by DaShawn Keirseyy.

Omaha (53-65) chipped away, getting RBI singles from Nick Loftin and Tyler Gentry in a four-run fourth and making it 10-7 on Nate Eaton’s two-run single in the eighth. But that’s as close as the Storm Chasers got.

The teams continue their series at 6:35 p.m. Friday.

St. Paul (71-51) 035 010 100-10 18 1
At Omaha (53-65) 000 400 120-7 7 3
W: Boyle, 3-0. L: Bowlan, 3-5. S: Moran, 1. 2B: O. Thompson, Dungan, Olivares. HR: SP, Keirseyy (1).

FOOTBALL

Michigan splits coaching

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan will give four assistants a chance to be head coach on game day during the three weeks Jim Harbaugh will serve the school’s self-imposed suspension for violating NCAA rules.

Michigan also announced Thursday that Harbaugh’s 84-year-old father, Jack, will be assistant head coach when twhe third-ranked Wolverines face East Carolina, UNLV and Bowling Green at home in September, and strength and conditioning coach Ben Herbert will add the title of associate head coach.

The school handed down a three-game suspension to Jim Harbaugh earlier this week as it tries to get out in front of possible NCAA punishment related to an investigation of impermissible contact with recruits during the COVID-19 dead period.

Harbaugh will only miss games, not practices. In is absence, defensive coordinator Jesse Minter will serve as coach against East Carolina in the opener Sept. 2.

The next week against UNLV, special teams coordinator Jay Harbaugh, Jim’s son, will handle head coaching duties in the first half and running backs coach and former Michigan star Mike Hart will handle them in the second half.

Offensive coordinator Sherrone Moore will be acting coach for Game 3 against Bowling Green.

Another Bronco injured

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — What started as the Denver Broncos’ deepest position group ended up as their thinnest after wide receiver Jerry Jeudy was carted off the field with a hamstring injury Thursday.

Jeudy was running an end-around in a joint practice with the Los Angeles Rams when he pulled up, grabbing his right hamstring and crumpling to the grass near the sideline. He had to be helped to the cart, then was taken for an MRI exam.

“Hopefully it’s not anything long term,” coach Sean Payton said.

SOCCER

FIFA opens case

GENEVA — FIFA opened a disciplinary case against the Spanish soccer official who kissed a player on the lips while celebrating the team’s victory in the Women’s World Cup final.

FIFA says its disciplinary committee will examine if Spanish Soccer Federation President Luis Rubiales brought the sport into disrepute. Rubiales kissed Spain player Jenni Hermoso on the lips during the trophy and medal ceremony after the country beat England in Australia. FIFA gave no timetable for a ruling.

BASKETBALL

Lakers add Kobe statue

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers will unveil a statue of Kobe Bryant outside their downtown arena Feb. 8.

The team announced the plan Thursday to honor Bryant, the fourth-leading scorer in NBA history and a beloved mainstay of the franchise for 20 seasons. Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, died in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

Bryant participated in the initial planning of his statue after his retirement in 2016, according to the Lakers.

VOLLEYBALL

Supernovas sign

Members of the Omaha Supernovas will sign autographs before the UNO-Nebraska outdoor match Wednesday in Lincoln.

Taking part will be former Husker Gina Mancuso-Prososki, Nia Reed, Tori Dixon and Natalia Valentin-Anderson. They will be signing from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on the east and west sides of Memorial Stadium.

The Supernovas begin play in the Pro Volleyball Federation’s inaugural season in February.

McKewon

From C1

Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin — will have to fight their way through the East heavy-weights to play for and win a Big Ten title going forward.

So this is our last “How the West Was Won” feature. Our usual approach remains: Seven categories with six teams — we’ve left out Northwestern, for the Wildcats will be lucky to win three games amid its self-inflicted program turmoil — vying for the crown.

Overall talent

Ranking: 1. Wisconsin. 2. Iowa. 3. Illinois. 4. Nebraska and Minnesota. 6. Purdue

The recruiting rankings say Nebraska. The success in the NFL draft says Iowa. The question of talent, of course, is whether one defines it as raw material or raw material + capacity to be developed. In that way, Iowa seems to be out front in the way it selects players on defense, while none of the six teams jump out too much on offense. Perhaps Wisconsin, with known quantities at running back (Braelon Allen) and receiver (Chimere Dike) stands out most when combined with the league’s stoutest defensive line, anchored by Isaiah Mullens. Illinois has the most complete receiving corps and defensive linemen. Nebraska has linebackers and defensive backs.

Quarterback

Ranking: 1. Iowa. 2. Nebraska and Wisconsin. 4. Purdue. 5. Minnesota. 6. Illinois

If healthy — if — Iowa’s Cade McNamara is the best of the bunch, having played at Michigan. He led the Wolverines to a College Football Playoff berth and a win over Ohio State.

That’s worth something more than stats. SMU transfer Tanner Mordecai (at Wisconsin) and Georgia Tech transfer Jeff

Sims (at Nebraska) have gaudier stats, but they’ve done it in easier leagues. Sims has the best upside if he can get more accurate with his short passes. At Minnesota, Athan Kaliakmanis and Cole Kramer appear to be run-first guys who can throw when asked. Sims is better than both. Luke Altmyer, a Mississippi transfer, is untested. Purdue quarterback Hudson Card has relevant experience at Texas that should help him grow in West Lafayette.

Defensive playmakers

Ranking: 1. Illinois and Wisconsin. 3. Iowa. 4. Minnesota. 5. Nebraska. 6. Purdue

Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin had the nation’s Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 17 scoring defenses last year, so it should be no surprise that, even if those schools lost NFL draft picks, they reside at the top of this list. The Illini retained Jer’Zhan Newton and Keith Randolph — both could be first-round picks in 2024 — plus top pass rushers Seth Coleman and Gabe Jacas. Wisconsin has Mullens and linebacker Maema Njongmeta as part of what’s likely the best front seven in the Big Ten West. Iowa corner Cooper Dejean is special, as is pass rusher Joe Evans. Minnesota and Nebraska have solid secondaries.

Coaching track record

Ranking: 1. Iowa. 2. Wisconsin. 3. Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois. 6. Purdue

This one’s interesting. Outside of Purdue — first-time coach, young staff, question marks — each one of these coaches have some scruff on their resumé beards. One has to put Iowa’s Kirk Ferentz at the top — he’s won at a high level over 20 years and runs the most consistent West program since 2015 — with one of the nation’s best defensive coordinators Phil Parker. After that? Luke Fickell by the slightest margin, thanks to his playoff appearance and

longtime Big Ten experience at Ohio State. Matt Rhule, Bret Bielema and P.J. Fleck tie for third. All have won conference titles, and Rhule coached for them in two leagues. Ryan Walters comes in last, given he’s new to the role.

Returning starters

Ranking: 1. Wisconsin and Iowa. 3. Nebraska and Minnesota. 5. Illinois. 6. Purdue

It’s not just how many starters come back — it’s the kind of starters they are. At Wisconsin, for example, it’s the three leading tacklers, the leading rusher, the leading receiver and three offensive linemen. (The other two projected starters started at Fickell’s old school, Cincinnati.) At Iowa, it’s the entire offensive line — which Ferentz insists will be better than the last two — the top rusher, an All-American caliber tight end, and the nation’s best punter/kicker combo. The Gophers lost key elements of their defense, but Illinois brings back much of its front seven. Purdue is rebuilding while Nebraska brings back much of its defense and offensive line.

Past performance

Ranking: 1. Iowa (43-18 since 2018). 2. Minnesota (39-20) and Wisconsin (38-22). 4. Purdue (29-29). 5. Illinois (25-33). 6. Nebraska (19-37)

There’s no sugarcoating raw numbers. Iowa has shown a consistent ability to win games the past five — and frankly eight — years, winning a division title in 2021. Wisconsin won it in 2019 while Purdue in 2022. The Gophers and Badgers are effectively even over five seasons — Minnesota is 3-2 in the series — while Purdue is a bit ahead of the Illini. The Huskers are last. They have to learn how to win close games instead of finding novel ways to lose them.

Schedule

1. Iowa and Wisconsin. 3. Illi-

nois. 4. Nebraska. 5. Purdue. 6. Minnesota

Hardest schedule first: Minnesota’s is off the charts. The Gophers burn a Big Ten home game in their season opener against a team with all new coaches, travel to Ohio State Nov. 18 before the rivalry game with Wisconsin and play Michigan.

Purdue draws the Buckeyes and Wolverines, too. Iowa doesn’t draw, either — seems like a pattern — but has to play at equally good Penn State and doesn’t get its bye until Oct. 28. Illinois avoids OSU and UM, hosts Penn State and Wisconsin, and has manageable league road trips. The Huskers get to come off a bye week with two home games, with four of their last six at home.

Adding it up

On sheer numbers, Wisconsin and Iowa tied, Illinois finished third, Minnesota and Nebraska tied for fourth and Purdue came in last.

The gaps between each place vary a bit. Illinois is genuinely throwing its quarterback in the deep end with a challenging month of games. Minnesota may lack elite defensive playmakers but it has a sound scheme. And while the Gophers’ schedule is tough, I have every Big Ten West team losing at least one crossover game.

So Minnesota and Illinois effectively tie for third. Nebraska finishes fifth in Rhule’s first year. Purdue finishes sixth — and may have been seventh if Northwestern didn’t experience a moral meltdown over the summer.

At the top, the Badgers and Hawkeyes will battle it out with Wisconsin hosting Iowa on Oct. 14. The Hawkeyes have won there once in the last decade. Advantage: Badgers, by a late touchdown run from Allen.

The last battle of the West — we think — is won by the team that most dominated it since its inception.

Shatel

From C1

back, the phone rang again.

“She called back,” Damon said. “She could not control her thoughts. Just overwhelming. Very emotional.

“And this is something I’ll be thinking about all season. She said, ‘My heart is just so full. I’m sorry I can’t control my emotions but your father would be so proud.’”

And there came the waterworks.

Damon Benning, whose father taught him to be so tough and disciplined, was having a moment.

It’s a moment that should last a season.

It’s a football season that finds defending Class A champion Omaha Westside back on top. And one of the leaders of the back-to-back quest is Caleb Benning, a senior defensive back/receiver.

That’s one storyline. So is the ongoing recruitment and decision. Benning has offers from Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa and his dad’s team, Nebraska.

Then there’s the old man himself, Damon, the former Husker, local radio host and Husker Network analyst — a popular presence in this market with all the comparisons and potential shadow that comes with it.

But there’s another story, an underlying tale that I went to Westside to find this week.

Don. Damon. Caleb.

A legacy. A connection.

Don Benning was one of Omaha’s most influential voices in athletics and education. He was the nation’s first Black coach at a predominantly white university, leading UNO wrestling to a national championship in 1970. He served as athletic director and assistant principal at Omaha Central and was assistant superintendent of Omaha Public Schools.

He was a pioneer, a Marine, a community mentor. And doting father and grandfather.

Don Benning died in 2017, leaving behind a lifetime of lessons, messages and standards for his son to pass on to his son.

It’s a ticklish thing, this father business.

When we become fathers, we have to decide which and how many of the lessons to use to shape our own kids.

Damon Benning, like most dads, is figuring it out as he goes.

As Caleb enters one of the

great times of his life, Damon is stationed behind — father first and Westside assistant — there to guide.

But there are still times that Damon wishes his guide was around to share this time. And yet, Don is there. Now more than ever.

“I do feel him,” Damon said. He has been there as Damon negotiated situations that were very familiar. Like a few years ago, when Caleb said he wanted to attend Westside rather than Omaha North or Central.

“I lost a couple of friends over that, at least people I thought were friends that I had coached with who thought I should have been more hands-on with the decision,” Damon said.

But Damon remembered the time he chose to attend Omaha Northwest rather than his father’s choice: Central.

“It did not go over well with my dad,” Damon said. “But I just remember what my dad told me.

“He wanted to make sure I was comfortable with the decision. He told me everyone tells you there are consequences to decision-making. What they don’t tell you is you have to be able to live with those consequences. And if you can’t, you probably ought to have a different course of action.”

That was a lesson Damon passed on to his son. Other lessons went down a little harder.

When Damon was pitching and the temperature was boiling, Don would turn off the air conditioner in the car so his son could get used to the elements.

Damon said he was “sick as a dog” once but his dad insisted he travel to Tabor, Iowa, to fulfill his commitment to pitch. Damon threw a no-hitter.

“Pushing me through those things was kind of how I was raised,” Damon said.

Then there was the fall of 1992, his freshman year at Nebraska, when Damon wanted to leave because he was being red-shirted.

“My dad said, ‘You can quit, you just can’t come home,’” Damon said. “I asked to speak to my mother. He said she’s going to tell you the same thing. She just might say, ‘Where you going to live?’”

That was the old Marine, who had gone to Omaha Tech and North and was trying to become an administrator and coach in OPS at a time when Blacks weren’t being considered.

Damon said Milo Bail (president) and Al Caniglia (football coach) hired Don to become

wrestling coach so he wouldn’t leave Omaha. He was later hired by Central as A.D.

“His perception on how to attack life was that you had to fight back,” Damon said. “There was not going to be any giving in. People could tell you no, but it really meant not yet. My dad would say that a lot.

“There are times when I’m that way with (Caleb). There are times when I want him to step on it. I’ve tried to instill in him, you can be a really nice guy, hold the door open for people, but when it’s ‘Go’ time, it’s ‘Go’ time.”

But Damon recalled a time last season when Caleb broke his collarbone and missed several games. Sitting in the tent on the sideline, Caleb surprised his dad by asking, “Why me?”

“In this uncanny way, I asked my dad that very question after UCLA (1993) when I got benched on national TV,” Damon said. “That wasn’t something I was allowed to say in our house.

“My dad said because life can be a cruel teacher but there’s always lessons to be learned.”

Rather than recite that line to Caleb, Damon hugged him, told him he was proud of him and stepped outside the tent to gather his emotions.

Don knew the first rule of fatherhood: Show up. He was always one of the first at the stadium for a Northwest game. Or one of Damon’s Nebraska games. There were postgame talks. Father and son always talked.

Damon remembered those lessons when it was his turn.

Caleb says he always loved football, always been aggressive, always been a threat to break a lamp making a circus catch in the living room playing with dad.

He got a waiver and was playing flag football at 4 years old. Then tackle — yes, tackle — at age 5.

“The only way we were going to do it was if I could teach him the correct way to tackle,” Damon said. “There were times I second-guessed myself but we never had any problems.”

All the way up through Omaha Skyhawks and Little Vikes, Damon has kept one eye on his shadow. He couldn’t let it creep too close.

Don had cast his own large shadow in Omaha. Damon felt it. And with him being a 90s Husker in the media, he knew Caleb would feel it, too.

Caleb laughs telling the story how he discovered his father was MVP of the 1997 Orange Bowl.

“I looked in the closet for my winter coat,” Caleb said. “And there on top was his Orange Bowl MVP trophy.”

Laughed Damon: “He said, ‘Are those oranges real?’”

Damon wouldn’t flaunt his Husker days or smother his son with them. If Caleb asked, sure. He’d tell stories.

On occasion Tony Veland, Clinton Childs and Tommie Frazier would come to the house and tell Caleb all about his dad.

“I’ve watched that Orange Bowl,” Caleb said. “A couple of games against Miami. He really doesn’t talk about himself. More people talk about him than he does, for sure.”

Caleb has his own tribute to his father’s No. 21. He wears No. 2 in basketball and No. 1 in football.

“He’s got a sense of humor,” Damon said. “He has a lot of my dad’s mannerisms. Doesn’t give you much. Makes his words count.”

Don died when Caleb was 12. He would attend his youth games. Grandpa and grandson bonded over Sunday dinner.

“Every time I went to grandma’s for Sunday dinner, he would call me into his office,” Caleb said. “I’d get a couple or-ange slices. He would give me a lesson.

“Keep your grades up. Do what’s right and respect others. Everything was about life. He didn’t focus on sports. He was more concerned about what kind of person I would become.”

Don Benning insisted on family dinner every night. So, too, does Damon. Like father, like son.

One of the dinner topics won’t be recruiting. Damon has tried to stay out of the process, being there for guidance.

“I know where his heart is,” Caleb said.

Damon knows his father would have done the same. Or would he?

“My dad was such a huge Nebraska fan,” Damon said. “He had a really good relationship with Bob Devaney. Johnny Rodgers calls me his nephew. I wonder if it came down to it, would my dad tell Caleb he wanted him to go to Nebraska?”

Damon smiles at the thought. We’ll never know. But it’s fun to intersect his dad into this conversation and, this special season. He would want to be here. And, he is.

Fall is back. Kickoff is here. The calendar is full for the Bennings.

So are their hearts.

NU football

From C1

I’m cautiously optimistic, I don’t want to put any pressure on Matt.”

Athletic Director Trev Alberts, with his experience as a Husker linebacker in the 1990s, sees a lot of things he likes from the team so far.

“They are working so hard, they’ve had a very physical and long and hard fall camp,” Alberts said Thursday at the event. “I guess what I see is a team that’s 100% committed. Frankly, there were some that aren’t, or weren’t. They’re not here anymore.”

But Alberts knows that the task isn’t easy. Despite buy-in from the team, there are still several steps needed before Nebraska returns to contention.

“We get clouded sometimes because of the previous success, but we’re literally starting over on trying to help our program understand what discipline looks like,” Alberts said. “(Rhule) is obviously excited. Everybody’s excited, everybody wants to win. But at the end of the day for us, it’s just remaining disciplined.”

Osborne and Alberts are well aware of the rewards discipline can bring. They are aware of the consequences when its lacking.

Both expressed hope that the football program can return to the fundamentals that made it a national power. Namely, a ground attack combined with physicality at every position.

“We have some good running backs, and I think they’ll be good. I hope the offensive line will be good,” Osborne said. “I like the three quarterbacks, you’ve got three guys there that are good runners and pretty good passers.”

After observing a few practices, Alberts says the team’s toughness showed and should carry over when it steps onto the field for real.

“The games will be the easiest thing they do,” Alberts said. “I am confident,

cautiously optimistic, that our team is not going to be intimidated by anybody. It will play four quarters, will play together as a team and will fight.”

There are, of course, many reasons to temper excitement.

Osborne waited 21 years to win his first national championship, and did so in a smaller conference. With realignment running rampant and the Big Ten potentially expanding to 20 teams, Osborne noted that fans should be cautious about judging coaches based on titles — conference or otherwise.

“I hope that people don’t try to measure Matt Rhule or any coach to come on whether they’re winning a conference championship or not,” he said. “It’s going to be harder, and traveling is going to be a little bit more difficult.”

However, Rhule seems prepared for whatever the college football landscape throws his way, Osborne said.

Alberts added that Rhule has been very attentive to the program’s history and worked to find the best strategy for NU moving forward.

“He’s been very receptive to listening to coach Osborne. And he’s reached out to Frank Solich, he’s talked to Bo Pelini trying to learn what works here, what doesn’t work here,” Alberts said. “It’s been done here before. I’m not saying it’s easy, but Nebraska’s won championships.”

“So there is a formula to get there.”

More from Alberts On Memorial Stadium: “Memorial Stadium needs to be the best college football experience in the country. Period. We need to do a better job making it more intuitive for our fans.”

“There’s a lot of people that feel like experiencing Husker football is outside of their economic capability. That can’t be the case.”

“We did a lot of research and between seat licensing fees and ticket costs, we’re the fifth-most expensive



ANNA REED, THE WORLD-HERALD

Few are as entwined with the Husker football program than A.D. Trev Alberts and Tom Osborne. So far, both had good things to say about new coach Matt Rhule. “I like what he’s done, so hopefully they’ll have a good year,” Osborne said.

ticket in college football. That’s not right.”

Adding more revenue: “We’re gonna rethink integration with our campus on the academic side. We spent a day with the Cubs and watched what the Ricketts family had done with Wrigleyville and sort of taking this iconic stadium and transitioning it.”

“They tripled their revenue, and part of that was by dramatically increasing point of sale, just very fundamental. Things that we can do within the stadium. We’ll probably look beyond the stadium, add some development opportunities. We have to find new entrepreneurial revenue streams.”

Fan experience: “If what you experience at Memorial Stadium doesn’t supersede what you can get in your basement, then we’ve got a problem. We’ve got to make sure it’s special.”

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What to watch FRIDAY

August 25, 2023

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah

Netflix ■ Original Film

Adam Sandler produced and stars in this comedy that follows the tumultuous and relatable friendship between two BFFs — Stacy Friedman (played by Sandler’s real-life daughter Sunny) and Lydia Rodriguez Katz (Samantha Lorraine) — who are preparing for the most important day (and party!) in a young Jewish girl’s life: her bat mitzvah. But Stacy and Lydia find their friendship in jeopardy thanks to some very cringey middle school mishaps and a popular boy.

Family Law

The CW, 7 p.m.

In “Family History,” Abby (Jewel Staite) can’t help but intervene when she discovers Jerri’s daughter won’t let Jerri (Bobbi Charlton) meet her grandchild, but Abby’s meddling reopens old wounds from Jerri’s past.

NFL Preseason

NFL Network & CBS, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

Week 3 of the NFL preseason continues with the Detroit Lions at the Carolina Panthers on CBS. NFL Network airs the New England Patriots at the Tennessee Titans and the L.A. Chargers at the San Francisco 49ers.

Moonshine

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In the last episode of the season, titled “So Long, Farewell, You’re Staying,” the Finley-Cullens, who have finally made peace with each other, must face their biggest challenge of all: find some missing drugs, reason



NETFLIX

with some shady buyers and frame Jill — all while hosting a fundraiser for local law enforcement.

Great Performances: Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert 2023

PBS, 8 p.m.

Continuing the annual tradition, the world-renowned Vienna Philharmonic is joined by a guest soloist to perform an open-air concert under the direction of a guest conductor from the gardens of Austria’s imperial Schonbrunn Palace.

Minx

Starz, 8 p.m.

Shelly (Lennon Parham) gets a taste of

CATCH A CLASSIC

Summer Under the Stars: Ernest Borgnine

TCM, beginning at 5 a.m.

Over his six-decade acting career, Ernest Effron Borgnino — better known as Ernest Borgnine — brought his incredible talent, gruff-yet-relaxed voice and famous gap-toothed grin to an amazing array of big- and small-screen roles, playing both good guys and heavies. His movie career started in the early 1950s, with memorable supporting roles in classics like **Bad Day**

college life while joining Joyce (Ophelia Lovibond) on her victory-lap trip to Vassar in the new episode “This Is Our Zig.”

Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip With Sam and Graham

Starz, 8:30 p.m.

Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish embark on an immersive food and wine tour of New Zealand in the new episode “Taste of New Zealand.”

The Proof Is Out There History, 9 p.m.

In “Alien Sabotage, Ghost Child and Hungry Hungry Sasquatch,” veteran TV journalist Tony Harris and his team of experts dive into the following claims tonight to find the truth: Is a home security video proof that UFOs are messing with our technology? Did a species of carnivorous marsupials, thought to be long extinct, just get caught on camera? Did a visitor at a historic cemetery in Savannah capture home video of a ghost child? And a metal detectorist claims to have recorded the sound of a hungry Bigfoot in the Alaskan wilderness.

Heels

Starz, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “Who the Hell Is the Condamned?” a mysterious new wrestler gains popularity in Duffy, igniting Gully’s (Mike O’Malley) ire.



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.

at **Black Rock** (1955), one of the titles featured in today’s Summer Under the Stars lineup. You’ll also see Borgnine’s talent on display in **The Dirty Dozen** (1967), **Ice Station Zebra** (1968), **The Wild Bunch** (1969), **Escape From New York** (1981) and more.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



SAM EMERSON

Booksmart (2019, Comedy) Kaitlyn Dever, Beanie Feldstein **VH1, 5:30 p.m.**

Ocean’s Eleven (2001, Comedy-drama) George Clooney, Matt Damon **TNT, 6:30 p.m.**

Bridesmaids (2011, Comedy) Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph **E!, 7 p.m.**

Hacksaw Ridge (2016, War) Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Mulan (1998, Children) Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy **Disney, 7 p.m.**

Thor (2011, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman **FX, 7 p.m.**

Just Go With It (2011, Romance-comedy) Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Rocky II (1979, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire **Vice, 8 p.m.**

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck **CMT, 10 p.m.**

The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997, Adventure) Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore **TNT, 10 p.m.**

The Magnificent Seven (2016, Western) Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt **AMC, 10 p.m.**

The Other Woman (2014, Romance-comedy) Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann **E!, 10 p.m.**

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NU volleyball

From C1

Regional goal

Those victory laps around Devaney after a second-round win in the NCAA tournament are special for the final home game of the year, but imagine the scene if that victory lap came after clinching a trip to the Final Four?

Being a top-four national seed means you get to host the second week of the tournament. Lincoln hasn't hosted a regional since 2016. That's a goal this season.

Family get-together

This weekend, the Batenhorsts have every match in front of them at the Devaney Center. A big accomplishment for the parents of three daughters playing college volleyball.

Dani is a senior defensive specialist for Gonzaga, Ally a sophomore outside hitter for Nebraska and Casey a freshman setter for SMU.

On Friday, SMU plays Lipscomb at 3:30 p.m. and Nebraska takes on Utah State at 6 p.m. The weekend ends when the Huskers vs. the Mustangs Sunday.

There were 28 T-shirts made for family with a photo of Ally and Casey, and more extended family will probably attend at least one of the matches.

Numbers to know

.870: Nebraska's winning percentage since Cook became coach in 2000, making it the winningest program in Division I in that span. The next three are Florida (.864), Hawaii (.853) and Penn State (.851).

8,309: The seating capacity for Devaney, an increase of 402 from last season after NU added some seats and reworked the standing-room-only section at the top of the arena. Nebraska has led the nation in average attendance for nine straight seasons, including an average of 8,190 last season.

3: The number of Cook's former assistants he'll go against during the regular season — Tyler Hildebrand (Long Beach State), Craig Skinner (Kentucky) and Chris Tamas (Illinois).

Three big weeks

Week 4: Probably Nebraska's first chance to see how it stacks up against a top-10 team when the Huskers play at Stanford (preseason No. 3 with first-team All-America right-side hitter Kendall Kipp) in a Tuesday match on ESPN. Then Nebraska comes back to Lincoln to play another ranked team in Kentucky on a Sunday night.

Week 9: The Huskers get Wisconsin in Lincoln on a Saturday night.

Week 2: Did you think there would be no mention of the stadium match? Nebraska plays UNO at Memorial Stadium on Wednesday in what may be the largest crowd for a women's sporting event in U.S. history. The great teams adjust, and if Nebraska can adjust to the conditions of a match in a football stadium on a summer night and play well, it will have handled a great first test.

Schedule

August: 25, vs. Utah State, 6 p.m. (TV: NPM) 26, vs. Lipscomb, 5 p.m. 27, vs. SMU, 2 p.m. 30, vs. UNO (Memorial Stadium), 7 p.m.

September: 3, at Kansas State, 4 p.m. 6, vs. Creighton, 7 p.m. 9, vs. Long Beach State, 7 p.m. 12, at Stanford, 8 p.m. 17, vs. Kentucky, 6:30 p.m. 22, vs. Ohio State, 8 p.m. 24, vs. Minnesota, 6:30 p.m. 29, at Purdue, 6 p.m. 30, at Indiana, 6 p.m.

October: 6, at Michigan State, 6 p.m. 7, at Michigan, 7:30 p.m. 13, vs. Michigan State, 6 p.m. 14, vs. Penn State, 7 p.m. 18, at Northwestern, 7 p.m. 21, vs. Wisconsin, 7 p.m. 27, vs. Maryland, 7 p.m. 28, vs. Rutgers, 7 p.m.

November: 3, at Penn State, 7:30 p.m. 5, at Rutgers, noon. 8, vs. Northwestern, 7 p.m. 12, vs. Illinois, 2 p.m. 17, vs. Michigan, 8 p.m. 19, at Iowa, 2 p.m. 24, at Wisconsin, 3 p.m. 25, at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

COLLEGE SOCCER THURSDAY

Jays can't pull off comeback in top-10 battle

WORLD-HERALD NEWS SERVICE

PALO ALTO, Calif. — No. 8 Creighton dug itself an early hole and dropped a 3-1 decision to No. 7 Stanford in a season-opening men's showdown.

CU played the Cardinal to a 1-1 draw last season, but the Bluejays — coming off a College Cup appearance — couldn't come up with an answer Thursday.

Stanford scored twice in the first 26 minutes for a 2-0 lead as Shane de Flores and Zach Bohane each scored from in close.

But Creighton went into halftime trailing 2-1 after Alfie Pope put the Jays on the board. With 3:44 left in the half, Pope, who scored four goals off the bench last season, headed in a crossing pass from Miguel Arilla to put the Jays back into the match.

Creighton ended up attempting the first five corner kicks of the night, but Stanford had the edge in shots, especially after halftime.

The Cardinal took 13 shots in the second half. The only score came with 25 minutes left, when Duncan Jarvie notched his first career goal.

Nathan Schnur made five saves for the Jays — all after halftime. CU, which was outshot 19-7, got two shots on goal from Jackson Castro. Castro had 10 goals last season and is the team's leading

returning goal scorer.

The Jays stay in California to play at UC-Irvine on Sunday afternoon.

Creighton (0-1) 1 0-1
At Stanford (1-0) 2 1-3
Goals: CU, Pope, SU, de Flores, Bohane, Jarvie.

Mavs drop opener

SAN ANTONIO — UNO lost a halftime lead in the opening minute after the break and eventually dropped a 2-1 decision to Incarnate Word in its season opener Thursday night.

The Mavericks took a 1-0 halftime lead when Sokol Ymeraj curled a free kick into the net in the 26th minute.

But Incarnate Word tied it 49 seconds into the second half, then Sollo Diphoko scored the winner with 20 minutes to go.

UNO outshot the Cardinals 6-5, but wasn't able to score the equalizer.

The Mavs stay in Texas to play Houston Christian on Sunday night.

UNO (0-1) 1 0-1
At Incarnate Word (1-0) 0 2-2
Goals: UNO, Ymeraj, IW, Soto, Diphoko.

Huskers roll to shutout

CHENEY, Wash. — Nebraska rolled to a 6-0 win against Eastern Washington on Thursday — and have a goal to add to the season's highlight reel.

Scoreless through 20 minutes, the Huskers scored in the 21st on Eleanor Dale's bicycle kick. The setup was just as good.

Jordan Zade uncorked a flip-throw from the sideline, which bounced once before finding Dale's leg, which swung up to strike the ball near her shoulder in one motion.

From there, the Huskers (2-0-1) rolled.

Abbey Schwarz put NU ahead 2-0 in the 31st minute. In the second half, Nicola Hauk, Sadie Waite, Ella Rudney and Emma Proski all scored.

Nebraska ripped off 34 total shots, including 21 on target. Eastern Washington had seven and two, respectively.

NU will finish its road trip against Gonzaga at 3 p.m. Sunday.
(Nebraska 2-0-1) 2 4-6
At Eastern Washington (0-3-0) 0 0-0
Goals: NU, Dale, Schwarz, Hauk, Waite, Rudney, Proski.

Mavs tie Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Marissa Gohr and Sophia Green each had a goal and an assist and Emma Kon-smo made a career-best 11 saves to help the UNO women remain unbeaten with a 2-2 draw at Missouri.

Gohr opened the scoring with a header off of a corner kick from Green in the seventh minute to put

the Mavericks (1-0-2) in front. After the Tigers tied it, Green gave UNO a 2-1 lead with a header in the 20th minute off a cross from Gohr.

Elena Zuchowski knotted the match at 2-2 in the 71st minute for 2-0-1 Missouri, which beat Creighton 3-1 last Sunday. Kon-smo made three saves in the final 10 minutes to keep it tied.

Missouri had a 13-4 advantage in shots on goal.

UNO (1-0-2) 2 1 0-2
At Missouri (2-0-1) 1 1-2
Goals: UNO, Gohr, Green; MU, Buels, Zuchowski.

Jays can't complete rally

ST. LOUIS — The Creighton women got themselves out of an early hole Thursday. Then three straight goals by Saint Louis thwarted the Bluejays' chances to pick up their first win.

Senior Abigail Santana notched her first goal of the season to tie it 1-1 in the 32nd minute. But the Billikens, who finished with a 17-5 edge in shots, didn't take long to regain the lead for good.

They scored in the 36th minute and twice more in the second half to pull away.

Next up, Creighton (0-2-1) travels to take on Kansas State at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Creighton (0-2-1) 1 0-1
At Saint Louis (2-1-0) 2 2-4
Goals: CU, Santana, SL, Kelley, Heckel, Sawyer, Gaebel.

Slow start turns into rally, win for Monarchs

MIKE PATTERSON
World-Herald Staff Writer

Second-ranked Papillion-La Vista survived a rough start Thursday night to rally for a season-opening victory over Gretna.

The host Monarchs posted a 20-25, 27-25, 25-14, 25-21 win over the No. 10 Dragons.

Gretna was playing its first match since the opening of Gretna East, which basically split the volleyball team in half.

“Let's not talk about that first set,” Papio coach Priscilla Petersen said. “I think the nerves got in the way, but they played a strong match against us.”

Junior Elle Heckenlively had seven of her match-high 20 kills as Gretna won the opening set. The Dragons threatened to go up 2-0 but everything changed in the second set.

Gretna led 24-20 but couldn't finish it off as the Monarchs rallied behind the strong serving of Morgan Glaser to take a 25-24 lead. The Dragons tied it but Papio won the set after a hitting error and a kill by Mia Tvrdy.

“When we were behind, the message to the team was just one point at a time,” Petersen said. “Morgan did a great job of serving



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Gretna's Elle Heckenlively, who had a match-high 20 kills, tries to hit through Papillion-La Vista's block in Thursday's season opener.

and we were able to battle back.”

Riding that momentum, the Monarchs rolled to an 11-point win in the third set. Papio jumped to a 7-1 advantage in the fourth and never surrendered the lead, ending the match on a block by senior Lauren Burden.

Glaser led the Monarchs with 15 kills, Tvrdy had 13 and freshman Aubree Feltin added 12. Setter Reagan Hickey dished out 45

assists.

Senior libero Faith Frame also played a major role for Papio. The Gretna transfer had 21 digs and seven assists against her former team.

“It was really, really emotional for me,” she said. “Obviously, a lot of stress because I love those Gretna girls and nothing negative toward them at all.”

Frame, a Cincinnati commit,

pointed to the second set as the key to the match.

“The energy either went to us or them so that was really critical,” she said. “Pulling through was the best thing we could have done.”

Petersen credited Frame for handling the situation well.

“I thought she played lights out tonight,” she said. “You could see how relentless she was out on the floor and that helped our energy as a team.”

Setter Avery Fotoplos had 37 assists for Gretna while Cassie Stones had nine kills. Addie Dostal added seven kills, five blocks and three aces.

Both teams return to action this weekend at the 14-team Bellevue West Invitational.

Gretna (0-1) 25 25 14 21
Papillion-La Vista (1-0) 20 27 25 25
G (kills-aces-blocks): Avery Fotoplos 0-1-1, Kennedy Shelburne 2-0-3, Elle Heckenlively 20-4-1, Addie Dostal 7-3-5, Maggie Miller 0-1-0, Cassie Stones 9-0-1, Kaylee Spath 2-0-0. Totals 40-9-11.
PLV: Reagan Hickey 1-0-0, Morgan Glaser 15-1-1, Lauren Burden 7-0-2, Julia Davenport 0-1-0, Mia Tvrdy 13-0-5, Aubree Feltin 12-0-1, Lillian Vitera 5-0-1. Totals 53-2-10.
Set assists: G 38 (Fotoplos 37, Lily Zimmerman 1), PLV 52 (Hickey 45, Frame 7).

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Pospisil

From C1

The Bellevue West crew, like last year, has a game under their belt while the Vikings are starting their season. Any advantage from the situation last year was negligible. The Thunderbirds stopped the Vikings' try for a tying 2-point conversion with four seconds left for a 28-26 win.

This time, North junior quarterback Sebastian Circo — another Power Five prospect — won't miss the game because of an injury. He was out last year, so was the starting running back, yet the Vikings made things close with a backup quarterback and freshman running back Ja'Ron Cannon out there for the final drive.

What to watch?

First, North's secondary against the Triplets and their other receivers. Then, West's offensive line against a North front that is expected to play Terry more than last year. Also, the ability for North to run the ball, perhaps by committee, against a Thunderbird front that allowed 3.56 yards per carry to Omaha Creighton Prep, and that with a pair of long runs. Lastly, Circo's ability to connect early with his receivers.

Other key games Friday

Omaha Creighton Prep (0-1) at No. 1 Omaha Westside, 7 p.m.: From No. 2 to No. 1, both on the road, go the Junior Jays. They were outyarded 2-1 by Bellevue West, yet had the lead twice and were in the game until the last 30 seconds. Think there might be a mention or two in this rivalry game that Westside was last year's state champ? The Warriors won last year's matchup 24-17.

No. 8 Millard South vs. No. 10 Millard West, 7 p.m.: The start of the Millard round-robin, which ended last year with a three-way 1-1 tie. South beat West last year 38-14.

Class B No. 1 Bennington at No. 3 Omaha Skutt, 7 p.m.: Bennington's last regular-season loss was in 2020 to Skutt. The Badgers are on a 26-game winning streak that Skutt's largest senior class would love to end. Last year, Bennington won 44-13.

Elkhorn Stadium twinbill — Lincoln Southeast vs. No. 3 Elkhorn South, 4 p.m. Class B No. 4 Waverly vs. No. 8 Elkhorn, 8 p.m.: Thursday's heat created this schedule, with LSE-Elkhorn South set back

GOING LATE FOR EARLY VICTORY



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Millard North's Pierce Mooberry tries to tackle Papillion-La Vista's Payton Prestito in Thursday's season opener. The showdown of top-10 teams (Papio is ranked ninth and the Mustangs No. 4) got a late start, kicking off about 8 p.m. to get some of the late-night drop in temperatures. Prestito scored two touchdowns and threw for another to help the Monarchs win 28-10. Scan the QR code or see Saturday's paper for full coverage of this game and more. NEWSVU

a day. And it might still push the heat limits. Waverly-Elkhorn starts an hour later than scheduled. Last year, Elkhorn South won 31-20 and Elkhorn 21-17.

Class B No. 7 Lincoln Pius X (1-0) at No. 6 Scottsbluff: Pius assistant and historian Jim Hansen reports this is the first time the Thunderbolts played in the Mountain Time Zone. If they don't grow back in enrollment to Class A, it won't be the last. Scottsbluff won 26-6 last year.

Bowl games

Known as a radio announcer and headline writer's nightmare, a matchup of teams with the same nickname:

“Knights Bowl” — Class C-2 No. 3 Oakland-Craig (0-0) at No. 2 Norfolk Catholic (0-0), 7 p.m.: Defending C-2 champ Norfolk Catholic hosts Oakland-Craig this week and No. 1 Ord next

week before playing five of its final seven games on the road.

“Pioneers Bowl” — Nebraska City (0-0) at Fort Calhoun (0-0), 7:30 p.m.: It was nip-and-tuck during the week whether Fort Calhoun's new turf field would be ready, but it made it to the finish line.

New kids get going

Gretna East and Omaha Buena Vista lace up the cleats for the first time in varsity games, with Buena Vista's debut a year delayed after not having enough eligible players.

Gretna East starts at Hastings, expected to be better than last year's 2-7 record. Buena Vista plays second-year Omaha Westview (0-1) at Burke Stadium.

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